

Council of the Great City Schools

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Great City Schools**

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February 15, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Discussion (CC Docket 02-6)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to inform you of an *ex parte* discussion on February 9, 2011, between Manish Naik and Jeff Simering from the Council of the Great City Schools and members of the Wireline Competition Bureau at the Commission. Commission staff in attendance at the meeting were: Gina Spade (via telephone), Adrian Wright, Regina Brown, Mark Nadel, Greg Lipscomb, James Bachtell, Christopher Grant, Wesley Gee, and Anita Patankar-Stoll.

The Council of the Great City Schools was invited to come and meet with the Commission to discuss the future of the E-Rate, and potential changes in this Universal Service program for schools and libraries. Representatives from the Council of the Great City Schools underscored the dire financial situation that urban school districts – and school systems nationwide – are encountering as a result of the current economic climate. In this context, the Council continued to urge caution in changing the program in ways that would cut existing services for school districts, and noted that urban schools have been working diligently to keep classrooms operating with minimal disruptions despite multiple years of significant budget cuts.

The Council staff also responded to a number of inquiries from Commission staff regarding different aspects of the E-Rate in urban schools. These included community use of internet service in school buildings, the possibility of providing wireless service in local neighborhoods, meeting CIPA requirements, and improving urban applicants' experience with audits and other types of duplicative review procedures.

We appreciate the outreach provided to urban schools by the Commission, and please do not hesitate to contact me, or Manish Naik on my staff, for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Casserly  
Executive Director